

THE ARRL Letter

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Volunteer Examiner Program Moves Ahead

ARRL expects the FCC to adopt Volunteer Examination Cost Recoupment rules in mid-July. As soon as such rules are adopted, ARRL President Price and General Manager Sumner will sign an agreement with FCC for ARRL to become a Volunteer Examination Coordinator (VEC) in all 13 districts. If there are no significant delays, ARRL will be coordinating exams beginning on Labor-Day weekend (September 1).

Initially, ARRL will coordinate exams for hamfests and conventions only and begin handling all other sessions 60 days later (November 1). This will permit ARRL exam sessions to meet the pent-up demand effectively while allowing time for dealing with unforeseen problems.

ARRL is in the midst of preparing a training manual, which will be ARRL's means of training a large number of Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in procedures and requirements for serving as VEs. Included in the package will be an open-book test, which must be passed. Only after successfully completing the test and submitting all paper work will a Potential Volunteer Examiner (PVE) be accredited as a VE. The manual will be distributed to registered PVEs in early July; thus, the first completed tests would reach ARRL Hq. about the time that the FCC is expected to adopt the recoupment rules and the ARRL-FCC VEC agreement is signed.

ARRL is continuing to register PVEs daily. Over 6000 have registered so far. If you are interested in participating in this exciting new phase of self-regulation in Amateur Radio, contact the Club and Training Department at ARRL Hq. -- they'll welcome your help.

The Federal Communications Commission has accepted the proposals of entities in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Regions

(call areas) to become Volunteer Examiner Coordinators: 2nd Region: Jim Greer, KK2U, MetroPlex Amateur Communications Association, Leonia, NJ 07605 (201) 592-1579; 3rd Region: Howard F. Lehnert, Jr., K3I0G, President, Laurel Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Box 91, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701; 4th Region: Joe T. Ingram, Jr., K400V, Central Alabama VEC, 606 Tremont St., Selma, AL 36701; Ernest R. Skinner, WB4ZCB, VEC Region IV, Inc., P.O. Box 2411, Knoxville, TN 37901; James P. Haga, KA4CAC, President, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802; 5th Region: James W. Westfall, Jr., KC5YB, President, Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 173, Dallas, TX 75221, Ellsworth A. Weinberg, N5EW, Contact Person (214) 241-5161; 6th Region: Steven L. Shafit, NE6L, Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group, 21921 Lanark St. #201, Canoga Park, CA 91304; San Diego County Amateur Radio Club (SANDARC), P.O. Box 82642, San Diego, CA 92138; 7th Region: H. Wayne Maddison, K6DOW, President, Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, WA 98124 (206) 773-3817; 8th Region: Judith L. Frye, KG8P, Dayton Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 44, Dayton, OH 45401; 9th Region: DeVry Amateur Radio Society 3300 North Campbell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618; 11th Region: Wilse Morgan, KL7CQ, President, Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 101-987, Anchorage, AK 99510-1987; 12th Region: Jose E. Saldana, KP4JM, Director, State MARS, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, P.O. Box 7388, Cidra, PR 00639.

No firm proposals have been made to FCC as yet for VECs in the 1st, 10th, (WØ, et al) or 13th (KH6, etc) Regions. Those in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Regions become official when a signed copy has been returned by the VEC to FCC.

¶ A meeting of the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) was held in Aurora (Denver), Colorado May 25. The EC reviewed information gathered on simplex autopatches (1984 ARRL Board Meeting Minute 73). After discussing many aspects of the situation, the Committee instructed the General Manager, beginning with the August 1984 issue, to require the inclusion of the following disclaimer in QST advertising which discusses the features of simplex autopatch devices: "Use of this device with a transceiver operating in the 2-meter band, or on any other frequency below 220.5 MHz, is not permitted unless a separate control link is provided."

The EC also reviewed progress in responding to the Board instruction (Minute 99) to study regulatory problems with nets.

ARRL Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, N3AKD, reported to the Committee on several FCC matters and local antenna litigation cases. General Manager David Sumner, K1ZZ, presented a progress report of ARRL preparations to become a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) in accordance with ARRL 1984 Board Meeting Minute 52. (See separate article on page 1.) President Larry Price, W4RA, reported on his attendance as an observer at the IARU Region 1 Conference in Cefalu, Sicily in early April. The EC concurred in having Vice-President Nathanson present the ARRL nominations for IARU President and Vice-President (Messrs. Baldwin, W1RU, and Smith, WØBWJ, respectively) to the IARU Administrative Council meeting in Paris later this month. Other matters discussed and acted upon will appear in the complete minutes in August QST.

¶ The Satellite Experimenter's Handbook has led us to an interesting possibility. Linda Finney, a researcher for the Children's Television Workshop in New York (Sesame Street and 3-2-1 Contact) read of the book in a government weather-satellite information release. Ms. Finney contacted ARRL Club and Training Department Manager Steve Place, WB1EYI, to find out what hams are doing in space. Assistant Public Information Coordinator Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, sent Ms. Finney an Amateur Radio public information package and a copy of "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier." Perhaps Oscar the Grouch will meet OSCAR the satellite ...

¶ FCC has denied ARRL's request for a temporary waiver of Section 97.112(b) that would have permitted W1AW employees to make QSOs while on duty but not transmitting bulletins or code practice. Although FCC rules prohibit any form of compensation for operating a ham station, the Commission amended its rules March 4, 1974 permitting paid employees to operate certain bulletin and code practice stations. Since then, ARRL has relied on visitors and off-duty staff personnel to give W1AW a "presence" on the air. If you are going to be in the area, please plan on operating W1AW. W1AW operating hours and visitor information can be found in June QST, p. 82.

¶ The League is no longer the "Headquarters" but rather the "International Secretariat" of the IARU. A total of 98 member-societies voted in favor of the adoption of the Constitution and Bylaws as proposed by the Administrative Council.

The number of IARU member-societies has increased to 121 with the addition of the Chinese Radio Sports Association and the Vanuatu Amateur Radio Society, both in Region 3. 84 societies voted in favor of the proposals.

¶ The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers, Inc. (NARTE), has established a certification program for repairmen and engineers who are holders of FCC commercial licenses. Another certification program is being administered by the National Association of Business and Educational Radio (NABER, see the last issue). Former and present FCC First and Second Class licensees will be eligible for these certificates on a "grandfather" basis. Grandfathering refers to the recognition of prior achievement and will be certified by application rather than examination. Interested persons should contact NARTE, P.O. Box 15029, Salem, OR 97309 (503-581-3336).

¶ ARRL Hq. is investigating the feasibility of establishing a central register of U.S. and Canadian amateurs who are interested in exchanging vacations and/or making travel arrangements with amateurs in other countries. Write ARRL Hq. if you want your name and address included in such a register.

¶ The first full year of the Special Service Club (SSC) program has come to a close. The program is in very good health on its first birthday:

* the first SSC-renewal mailing will be sent within the week;

* SSC-Logo patches, decals and stickers are now being produced;

* the SSC Manual is out and has been very well received;

* we have 105 SSCs working aggressively in their local communities and have several other candidates in the pipeline;

* we're beginning to get useful feedback from our clubs to share with others in QST and Radio Club News.

July QST will have an article on the SSC logo and the first in a long series of Club Corners that will report our SSCs' successes back to all clubs. The August column will focus on the club's role in technical advancement. Also in August will be a summary and review of the first year of the SSC program.

¶ The long-awaited OSCARLOCATOR is now in stock! Selling for \$8.50 (U.S.), the package contains three polar-projection maps (northern hemisphere) and overlays, instructions and data/information sheets. As this edition of the package does cover AMSAT-OSCAR 10, it's the first Phase-III tracking device we've ever produced. It does not, of course, contain volatile orbit-prediction information; that is available from several sources including W1AW. Monthly schedules are available to ARRL members for an s.a.s.e. Credit for this OSCARLOCATOR package goes to ARRL Satellite Program Manager Bernie Glassmeyer, W9KDR.

¶ The following ARRL-purchased Product Review equipment is for sale to the highest bidder. Prices quoted are minimums and reflect a discount from our purchase price. Sealed bids must be submitted by mail and be postmarked on or before July 5. Bids postmarked after the closing date will not be considered. Bids will be opened seven days after the closing postmark date. In the case of a tie, the highest bid bearing the earliest postmark will be declared the winner. The amount of the winning bid will be announced in The ARRL Letter. Please clearly identify the item for which you are bidding, using the manufacturer's name, item model number and other identification number if so specified. Each item requires a separate bid and envelope. Shipping charges will be paid by the winning bidder, FOB Newington. Please address your bids to: Kathy McGrath, Product Bids, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

Item	Model	Serial No.	Issue	Minimum Bid
1	Yaesu FT-726R 2-Meter XCVR includes: XF 455 CW filter 6-m unit 70-cm unit SU-726 satellite unit	3K070227 n/a P3G030026 P3N090313 P3K070099	May '84	\$825.75
2	A.E.A. CP-1 Computer Interface	1702	April '84	114.02
3	Kantronics Interface I Computer Interface	32662	February '84	72.00
4	Radio Shack Digital Logic Probe (22-302)	n/a	July '84*	13.37

*New Products

¶ 1984 is the fiftieth anniversary of the FCC. Here is a selection of key events in 1934 that may be of interest. The dates are taken from FCC Log: 1934-1956, issued by the Office of Reports and Information in July 1956:

*June 19 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Communications Act of 1934 establishing FCC.

*July 17 - Commission organized into three Divisions: Broadcasting, Telegraph and Telephone.

*July 24 - FCC granted first experimental TV authorization to General Television Co., Boston.

*August 29 - Amateur station licenses totaled 46,390.

*December 12 - FCC revokes first amateur license.

¶ ARRL will have an official "presence" at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) 38th International Convention at the Sheraton Washington (D.C.) Hotel June 19-21. ARRL will provide information about Amateur Radio at its booth and will host a number of Washington dignitaries at the AFCEA Amateur Radio luncheon. If you will be attending the convention, stop by the booth and say hello.

¶ A third-party agreement between the U.S. and Belize (J3) was signed on May 23. While the text has not yet reached Hq., the agreement is believed to contain the usual restrictions against business traffic and against messages sufficiently important to justify using the common carrier networks. It becomes effective June 22.

¶ This list (released June 6, 1984) shows the last call sign in each group to be assigned for each district, as of the first of June 1984.

Radio District	Group A Am. Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	NF0Z	KD0QB	N0FNQ	KA0TBQ
1	KV1Q	KB1NH	N1DCE	KAI1WE
2	NF2S	KD2GQ	N2EXD	KA2CF
3	KT3J	KC3NT	N3OYX	KA3Muz
4	AA4CT	KI4MD	N4KFF	KB4KNT
5	NQ5N	KE5OY	N5GZK	KA5UAP
6	WA6L	KG6HU	N6KMU	KB6FPW
7	N17I	KD7WD	N7GFX	KA7THG
8	NI8W	KD8R0	N8FTZ	KABUvx
9	NB9D	KD9IV	N9EPC	KA9SCT
N. Mariana Is.	AH0D	AH0AC	KH0AG	WH0AG
Guam	AH2T	AH2AZ	KH2BN	WH2EB
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AF
Hawaii	WH6S	AH6FI	NH6BK	WH6BAE
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AO
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AB
Alaska		AL7FY	NL7DQ	WL7DP
Virgin Is.	KP2J	KP2AT	NP2BE	WP2ADY
Puerto Rico	WP4C	KP4HS	NP4KG	WP4DLM

¶ The first cross-country HT QSO occurred at 1458 UTC May 28 when amateurs in West Virginia and California made contact. Karen Henderson, KB6DDQ, in Los Angeles and Jay Paulovicks, KD8GL, in Wheeling, West Virginia used two-meter hand-held transceivers, facilitated by "gateway" stations, which served to connect local terrestrial repeaters to the AMSAT-OSCAR 10 satellite.

In West Virginia, KD8GL used his two-meter HT to access the Triple States Radio Amateur Club repeater, KD8GL/R. Local gateway station WB8ZTV converted the two-meter signals to 435-MHz SSB for OSCAR 10's uplink.

Meanwhile in Los Angeles, gateway station N6JFD (Mike Henderson) converted the SSB back to two-meter FM for the WA60BT repeater to which KB6DDQ was tuned. Signals in both directions were excellent according to all listeners.

Later, the W7LWE repeater/gateway in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, joined in the fun. This made it the first three-way gateway operation and effectively linked amateurs in three states using OSCAR 10's trunking capabilities. According to an AMSAT official, "This historic event marks the vanguard of easy-access satellite communications for utility use by, minimally equipped amateurs."

AMSAT suggests that demonstrations of satellite communications by using gateway interconnects may be just the vehicle to exhibit the new OSCAR 10 capabilities while reducing new-user costs. According to Vern "Rip" Riportella, WA2LQQ, of AMSAT, "Nothing can beat the flexibility of your own OSCAR station, but for those just starting out, this seems a good way to taste the wine before one buys the bottle." A free information kit is available from AMSAT for an s.a.s.e. Contact AMSAT, P.O. Box 27, Dept. GW, Washington, DC 20044.

¶ UoSAT-OSCAR 11 ground controllers at the University of Surrey, England, switched on the VITA/AMSAT digital communications experiment (DCE) for the first time. Current drain is within the range expected. The first major operational test was carried out successfully when the DCE was given control of the downlink beacon. Indications were that the on-board computer was active and awaiting software load commands from the ground.

¶ ARRL Membership Services Department Manager Hal Steinman, K1ET (ex-K1FHN) has announced his resignation in order to pursue a career in data processing. K1ET was first licensed in 1963 at the age of thirteen (KN1FHN). He co-founded (with Dave Sumner, K1ZZ) the Kelly Junior High School Radio Club in Norwich, Connecticut, was a member of the Norwich Free Academy Radio Club, and served as Training Officer for the Dartmouth Radio Club in Hanover, New Hampshire.

He earned a BA degree with honors in mathematics from the University of Connecticut (UCONN) in 1970. In 1979 he earned a Master in Business Administration from the same university. Steinman also belongs to four honor societies. From 1970 to 1972 he served as a computer operator in the U.S. Army; then as a mathematician for the Naval Underwater Systems Center in New London, Connecticut.

His interest in Amateur Radio brought him to ARRL Hq. in 1974 where he started as a Membership Services Assistant in the Membership Services Department. He became Deputy Manager of the Membership Services Department in 1977, and Manager in 1980. Between 1978 and 1980 he served as the League's Washington Area Coordinator.

¶ 1984 Summer Olympics will have an Amateur Radio station (NG840) at the UCLA Olympic Village. The station's primary purpose is to send messages home for Olympic participants from countries which permit third party traffic with the U.S. Zimbabwe (Z2) and Hong Kong (VS6) have established temporary third-party-traffic agreements with the U.S. for the Olympics. The agreements will be in effect between July 1 and August 31, 1984, and will allow messages to be exchanged between the Olympic Village and the athletes' home countries. More special third-party traffic agreements are expected.

When time permits, commemorative contacts will be given to all callers. Please do not call during traffic handling periods.

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